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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 65 (Cancelled)

66. (New): A purified oxidase enzyme obtained from *Stachbotrys parvispora* having an apparent molecular weight of about 38 kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and a pH optimum of 5.0 to 7.0, inclusive as determined by incubation for about 2 minutes at 20°C with 2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonate (ABTS) as a substrate.

67. (New): The oxidase enzyme of claim 66, wherein the *Stachbotrys parvispora* has MUCL accession number 38996.

68. (New): The oxidase enzyme of claim 66, wherein said oxidase is capable of modifying the color associated with a colored compound, wherein said colored compound is a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin or a Maillard reaction product.

69. (New): A purified oxidase enzyme obtained from *Stachbotrys parvispora* having an apparent molecular weight of about 38kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and a pH optimum of 6.0 to 7.5, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20°C with syringaldizin as a substrate.

70. (New): The oxidase enzyme of claim 69, wherein the *Stachbotrys parvispora* has MUCL accession number 38996.

71. (New): The oxidase enzyme of claim 69, wherein said oxidase is capable of modifying the color associated with a colored compound, wherein said colored compound is a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin or a Maillard reaction product.

72. (New): A purified oxidase enzyme obtained from *Stachbotrys parvispora* having an apparent molecular weight of about 38kD as determined by SDS-PAGE and a pH optimum of 7.0 to 9.0, inclusive, as determined by incubation for 2 minutes at 20°C with 2,6-dimethoxyphenol as a substrate.

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73. (New): The oxidase enzyme of claim 71, wherein the *Stachbotrys parvispora* has MUCL accession number 38996.

74. (New): The oxidase enzyme of claim 72, wherein said oxidase is capable of modifying the color associated with a colored compound, wherein said colored compound is a porphyrin, a polyphenol, a carotenoid, an anthocyanin or a Maillard reaction product.

75. (New): An enzyme composition comprising the oxidase enzyme of claim 66, 69, or 72.